POLL FINDS PUBLIC IS NOT YET SOLD ON REPUBLICANS 3

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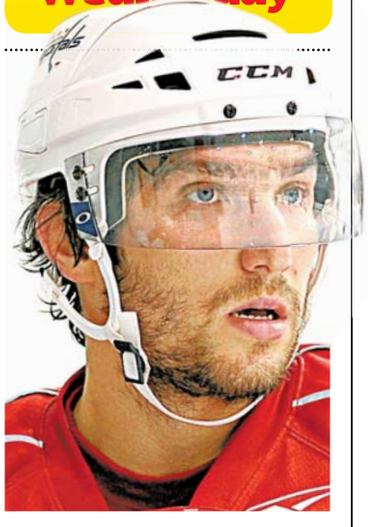
Wednesday



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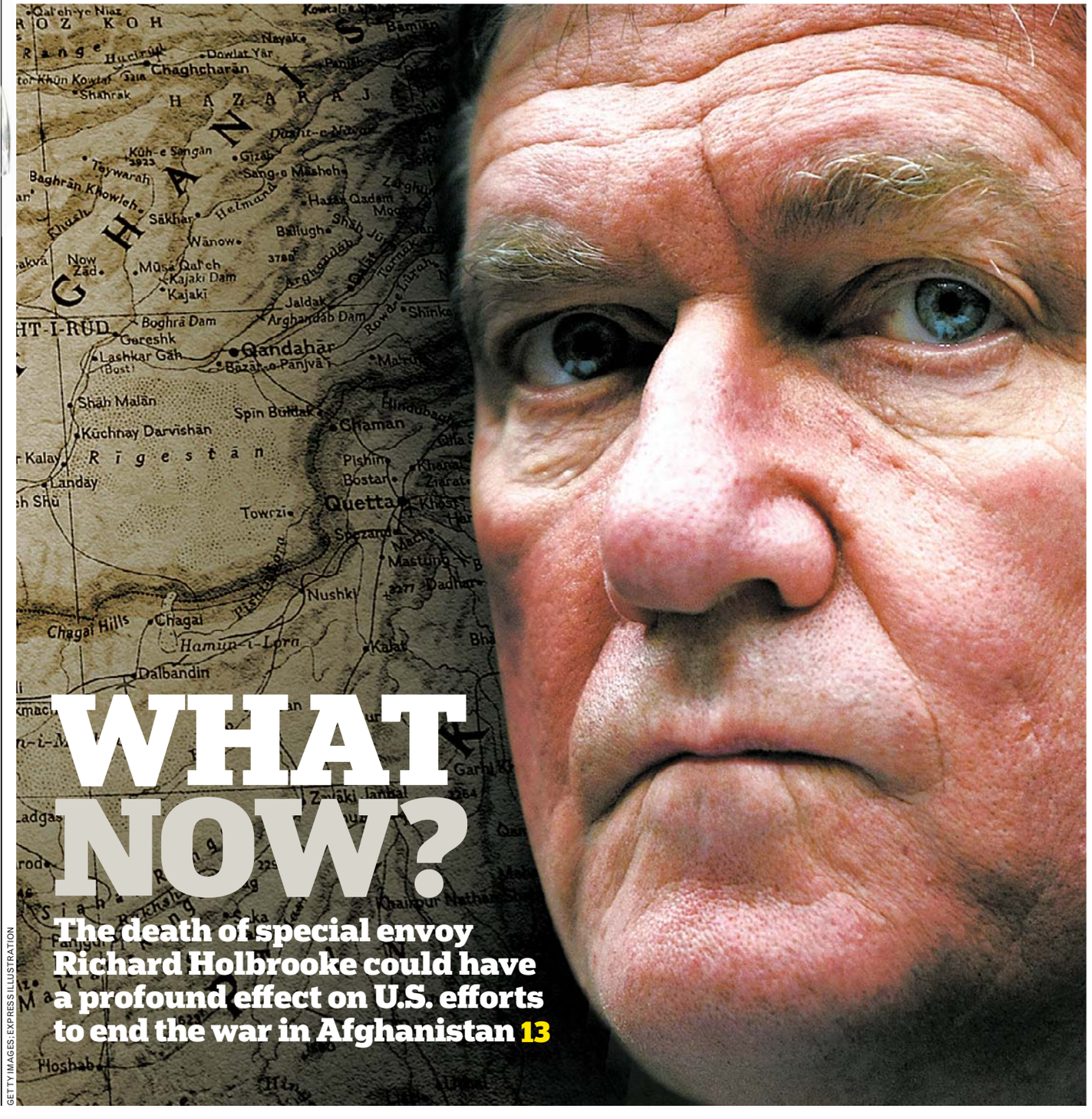

WHAT NOW?

The death of special envoy Richard Holbrooke could have a profound effect on U.S. efforts to end the war in Afghanistan 13

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eye openers

Prison Staffers Need To Watch More TBS

A convicted drug dealer in California cited his belief in Festivus to get better food at the Orange County jail. Malcolm Alarmo King disliked the salami meals served at the jail, so he requested kosher meals. Keeping kosher is not a tenet of Festivus. A sheriff's spokesman says King got salami-free meals for two months before the county got the order thrown out in court. **(AP)**

Alien Overlords Salute Earth's Secret Queen

A 15-foot sculpture was left on the lawn of a Boulder, Colo., home Friday night. The object in Donna Coughlin's yard has solar-powered lights and an antenna, and is adorned with rusty chains, mirrors, a padlock and scrap metal. An artwork that looked like a giant ladybug was left in nearly the same spot 23 years ago. **(AP)**

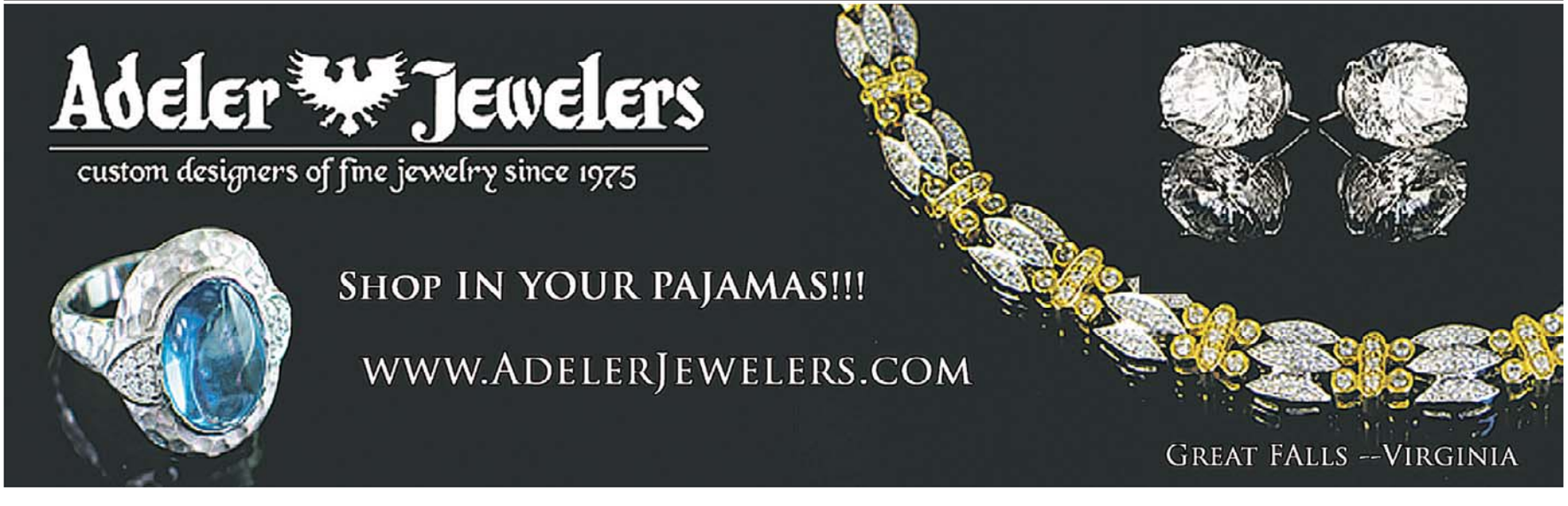
'Wearing Only A Smile' Will Haunt Us, You

A Wisconsin postal carrier says he simply wanted to cheer up a woman who seemed "stressed out." Police say the 52-year-old man told the woman he would deliver the mail to her office in Whitefish Bay completely naked to make her laugh. He says the woman dared him to do it, so he took the dare Dec. 4 and brought the mail wearing only a smile. He was arrested for lewd and lascivious behavior. **(AP)**

The Big Picture

WONG MAYE-E/AP

KIDS WALLOW in snow-like foam at a Singapore shopping mall on Tuesday. Now you will have terrifying dreams about frozen child zombies tonight. **(EXPRESS)**



Nation

In Brief

AP

Workers on Tuesday inspect the Metrodome's roof, which tore early Sunday.

MINNEAPOLIS

Workers Begin to Assess Stadium Roof Damage

An inspection of the Metrodome's roof began Tuesday, as its owners mull whether to push repairs before Monday's Minnesota Vikings game. If the roof is not ready for game against the Chicago Bears, the Vikings may play under a winter sky. The Teflon roof collapsed Sunday after a major blizzard. (AP)

PANAMA CITY, FLA.

Gunman Kills Self During School Board Meeting

A gunman fatally shot himself at a school board meeting Tuesday after he walked up to a podium, spray-painted a red "V" with a circle around it and began firing, a school official said. The gunman had started a heated discussion with the school board members, officials said, and there were no other injuries reported. (AP)

Poll: Public Split on Leadership

Americans still trust Obama more than GOP, findings show

Washington

Republicans made major gains in the November elections, but they have yet to win the hearts and minds of the American people, according to a Washington Post-ABC News poll released Tuesday.

The midterm elections — in which Republicans gained 63 seats to take control of the House of Representatives and added six seats to their Senate minority — were widely seen as a rebuke to President Obama. Still, the public now trusts Obama marginally more than congressional Republicans to deal with the country's main problems, 43 to 38 percent.

The poll suggests that the election results may have been a vote against the status quo, but it was not a mandate for the GOP. The survey also underscores the degree to which Americans are conflicted about who they believe is setting the agenda in Washington.

The president's narrow advantage is a striking contrast to the public's mood at this time in 1994 and 2006, the last two midterms when one or both chambers of Congress changed hands.

After Democrats won back the House and Senate four years ago, they had a big lead over President George W. Bush when it came to big issues. Similarly, after the GOP's 1994 landslide, people expressed far more confidence in Republicans than in President Bill Clinton.

JEWEL SAMAD/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

A new poll shows that Americans are almost evenly split on President Obama's overall job performance, with 49 percent approving and 47 percent disapproving.

41%

The portion of Americans who say the GOP's takeover of the House is good, according to a new poll. About 27 percent call it a "bad thing," and 30 percent say it won't matter. (TWP)

The public is also divided when it comes to the top issue: 45 percent say they trust the GOP when it comes to the economy; 44 percent side with Obama. The new poll also has even splits between Obama and the GOP on taxes and dealing with the threat of terrorism.

More broadly, the poll found that the widespread public pessimism that shaped election-year attitudes has not been alleviated by the outcome. Two-thirds of Americans say the U.S. is heading in the wrong direction, the same number to say so a month into Obama's term. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Meanwhile ...

The tax package negotiated by President Obama and GOP lawmakers is headed toward passage in the Senate either late Tuesday or Wednesday. The Senate voted on Monday 83-15 to advance the deal, which would provide a two-year reprieve from tax increases scheduled to take effect on Jan. 1. House Democrats met Tuesday evening to discuss the package. Last week, House Democratic leaders said they would not schedule a vote on the tax bill without changes to make it less generous to the wealthy. (AP)

1,924 **The number of pages** in a spending bill released Tuesday by Senate Democrats, combining 12 spending bills in one measure with more than $1.2 trillion in appropriations to fund the federal government for a year. Lawmakers said the bill, though laden with earmarks, is $29 billion less than President Obama's proposed budget. (TWP)

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Nation

House Eyes 'Don't Ask'

Stand-alone bill could push Senate to vote on military policy

Washington

In a new showdown, the House this week will take up a bill that would overturn the military's "don't ask, don't tell" policy on gays, Democratic leader Steny Hoyer said Tuesday.

The move would put pressure on the Senate to delay its adjournment plans and take up a stand-alone repeal bill sponsored last week by Sens. Susan Collins, R-Maine, and Joe Lieberman, I-Conn.

Repeal advocates see this week as their last best shot at overturning "don't ask, don't tell," which bars gay troops from acknowledging their sexual orientation. Next year, Republicans take back control of the House and additional Senate seats, undercutting the chances that any Democratic priority will advance come January.

ALEX BRANDON/AP

Rep. Steny Hoyer, D-Md., backs ending the military's ban on openly gay troops.

Hoyer on Tuesday said he would introduce the bill with Pennsylvania Democratic Rep. Patrick Murphy as his co-sponsor. A vote was expected as early as Wednesday.

Last May, the House voted 234-194 in favor of repeal legislation as part of a defense policy bill. But it stalled in the Senate, where Republicans blocked it and questioned unrelated provisions, including one that would allow abortions at overseas military facilities.

60

The number of senators believed to support a bill repealing the military's ban on openly gay troops, giving it a filibuster-proof majority, if enough debate time is allowed before the session adjourns. (AP)

A standalone bill to overturn the military ban on openly gay troops has been introduced by Collins and Lieberman in the hopes that the new version would attract fewer objections.

But that bill had been considered a long shot because any Senate action would require House approval just days before Congress was to adjourn.

The last-minute House vote would eliminate that concern and put pressure on Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., to keep the Senate in session longer. (AP)

Emanuel Defends Residency for Chicago Mayor Bid

Chicago

Former Obama aide Rahm Emanuel, testifying at a hearing called after his residency was challenged to keep him off February's mayoral ballot, told officials on Tuesday that when he went to be the White House chief of staff, he left his family's "most valuable possessions" in Chicago, including baby clothes and his wife's wedding dress, proving his intent to move back.

Emanuel

Emanuel took the stand to defend himself against more than two dozen objectors who say he isn't eligible to run for mayor because he lived in Washington for nearly two years while working for President Obama.

Emanuel's attorneys dismiss challenges to his residency, saying he owns a home, pays property taxes and votes in Chicago.

The stakes couldn't be higher for Emanuel, who left his job as Obama's chief of staff for the chance to replace Chicago's longtime mayor, Richard Daley. (AP)

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Chilly Outlook Causes Fla. Farmers Distress

Cold snap threatens harvest, drives rush to save state's crops

St. Petersburg, Fla.

Dozens of helicopters whir above Florida's valuable and sensitive veggie crops, sent up by farmers worried that an uncommon freeze could wipe out their harvests.

The choppers hover low over fields in the early morning hours to push warmer air closer to the plants — and, the farmers hope, save the plants from a deadly frost.

Farmers are nervous because an 11-day freeze in January wiped out many crops, from corn to kumquats. Florida is the largest U.S. winter producer of sweet corn.

GREG KAHN/AP

A man inspects crops at a farm in southwest Florida on Tuesday after a hard frost.

Strawberry farmers are spraying water on the plants, so the heat lost from the crop to the surrounding air is replaced with the heat released as water changes to ice. Citrus farmers are using heaters to warm the air near tree trunks.

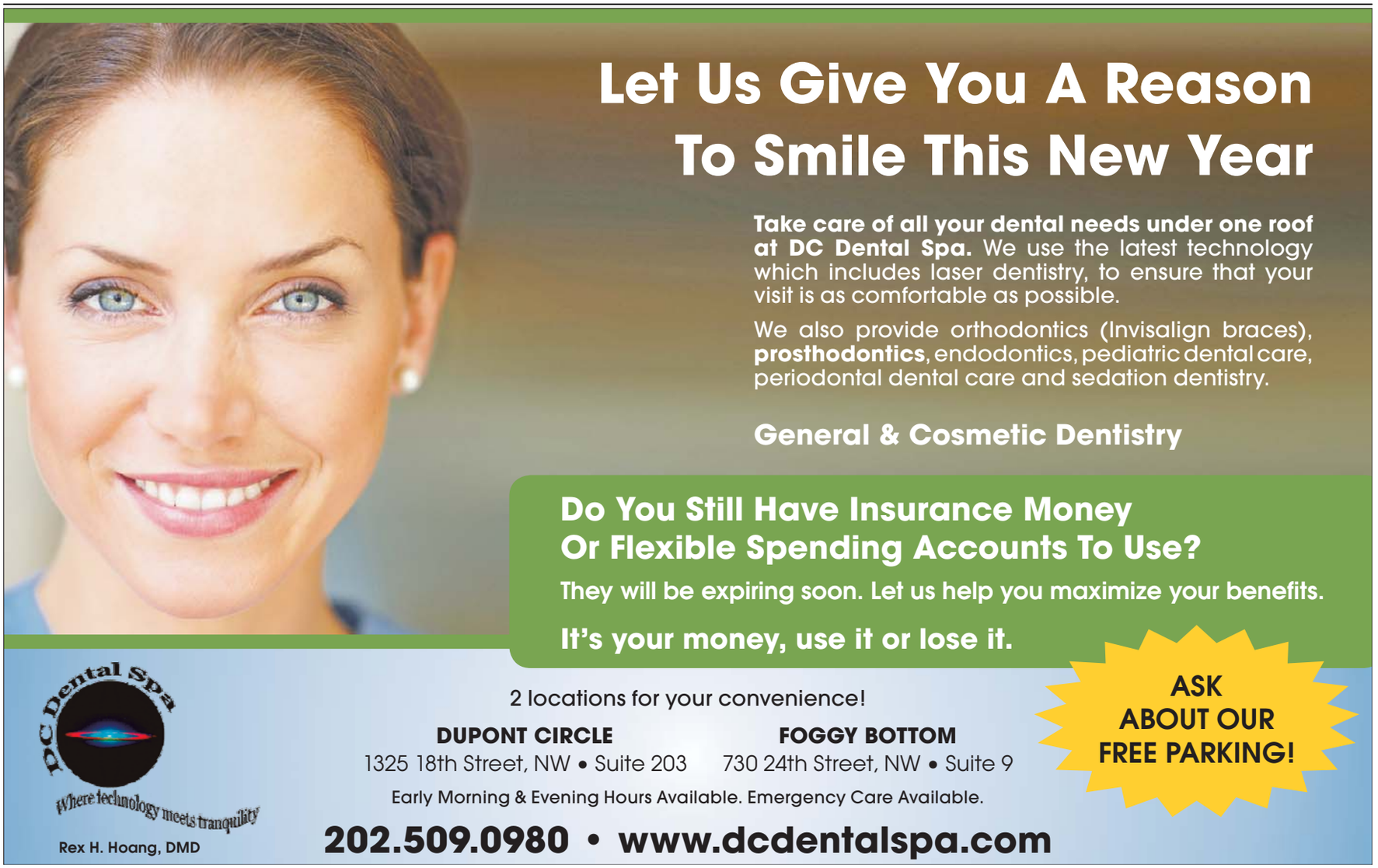
Gov. Charlie Crist on Sunday declared a state of emergency because of the threat of severe crop damage. And when Florida's crops die, shoppers pay more at the grocery store because replacement produce is usually imported.

Temperatures are expected to dip into the teens in north Florida, and in the high 20s in central and South Florida. Temperatures between 60 to 78 degrees are more common this time of year.

"Virtually everything is in peril," said Lisa Lochridge, a spokeswoman for the Florida Fruit and Vegetable Association. (AP)

Change

GONE FROM THE PENNY is the tiny Lincoln Memorial that has been "tails" since 1959. In its place: a "Union Shield," an acorn of 13 stripes. The U.S. Mint has been stamping the design since February. The Lincoln penny was introduced in 1909, and that design, with ears of wheat, gave way to the Memorial penny in 1959. (THE WASHINGTON POST)



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World

In Brief

PAVEL RAHMAN/AP

Relatives wait outside a hospital where fire victims are in Ashulia, Bangladesh.

DHAKA, BANGLADESH

Dozens Killed in Factory Fire in Bangladesh

Dozens of people were killed after a devastating blaze raced through a garment factory that supplies major multinational corporations such as Gap and J.C. Penney near Bangladesh's capital on Tuesday. It was not immediately clear what caused the blaze, and the government ordered an investigation. **(AP)**

LUTON, ENGLAND

Mosque: Sweden Bomber Didn't Seem Violent

Officials at the Luton Islamic Center on Tuesday defended their decision not to report Sweden bomber Taimour Abdulwahab to police after his extremist views alienated worshippers. Farasat Latif, the mosque secretary, told The Associated Press that officials would have told police about Abdulwahab if he had shown signs of violence or instability. **(AP)**

PHOTOS BY GREGORIO BORGIA/AP

Police officers clash with protesters and take position in Rome after Silvio Berlusconi won back-to-back votes of confidence in the Italian parliament on Tuesday.

Riots Erupt After Berlusconi Win

Italian leader survives political crisis with 2 votes of confidence

Rome

Silvio Berlusconi pulled off another astonishing escape from the political dead, scraping through two confidence votes Tuesday in a dramatic parliamentary showdown. But the Italian leader's hold on power remains precarious as his razor-thin victory makes political gridlock a near certainty — and violent street protests show growing unease with his rule.

Masked protesters torched cars and trash bins; smashed shop windows; and clashed with police. Clouds of white tear gas and orange flares engulfed streets, as shops full of Christmas goods hurriedly closed down. Employees at one bank cowered in fear as a group of stone-throwing youths swept by.

Protesters rampaged in the area around parliament and Berlusconi's residence, which had been cordoned off by police. By sundown, almost 100 people, both protesters and police, were reported injured, including about two dozen who were hospitalized. About 40 were reportedly taken into custody.

Surviving the Vote

Weakened by sex scandals and a bitter breakup with his one-time closest ally, Gianfranco Fini, Berlusconi seemed destined to be sent packing. But he battled back, as he has countless times when his political career seemed to be on the ropes. Tuesday confirmed his status as the ultimate political survivor — but he emerges from the battle weakened, and one top opposition lawmaker called his success a "Pyrrhic victory." **(AP)**

In the most dramatic and closest of the two tests, Berlusconi survived the no-confidence motion in the lower house by just three votes. Scuffles between lawmakers forced a brief suspension in the voting session. Earlier in the day, Berlusconi had secured a more comfortable victory in a confidence vote at the Senate.

The vote's slim margin means Berlusconi can no longer count on a secure parliamentary majority for passing legislation. Some experts predict he might resign in upcoming weeks, a move that could lead to early elections, which he hopes to win again. **ALESSANDRA RIZZO (AP)**

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World

Assange Granted Bail

WikiLeaks founder to remain in custody for at least 48 hours

London

A British judge granted Julian Assange bail on Tuesday, but the WikiLeaks founder will remain in custody for at least another 48 hours after Swedish prosecutors said they would challenge the decision.

Assange, a 39-year-old Australian, has already spent a week in a U.K. jail after his surrender to police in a Swedish sex-crimes investigation. He denies any wrongdoing, and his lawyers say he plans to fight Sweden's extradition request.

Britain's High Court will hear the Swedish appeal, although it wasn't immediately clear when.

Assange's lawyer Mark Stephens said his client's relief at the bail decision had already evaporated, calling it "unfortunate" that "the Swedes won't abide by the umpire's decision."

LEFTERIS PITARAKIS/AP

A Julian Assange supporter protests outside London's Swedish Embassy.

Under the ruling Tuesday, Assange would be subject to strict bail conditions. Stephens said the court was demanding $316,000 in bail up front before Assange could be freed. He would also have to wear an electronic tag, live at a registered address, report to police every evening and observe two four-hour curfews each day.

Several wealthy supporters have put up a total of $380,000 as a guarantee for Assange, his lawyers said. Assange's next court appearance was set for Jan. 11, ahead of a full hearing on Feb. 7 and 8. (AP)

Meanwhile ...

President Hugo Chavez's government has sold China oil for as little as $5 a barrel and was upset that China apparently profited by selling fuel to other countries, according to a classified U.S. document released by WikiLeaks. The report about Chinese companies diverting oil was one of several newly released documents that also describe falling crude output in Venezuela caused by a host of problems within the national oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA, or PDVSA. (AP)

Hamas Celebrates 23rd Anniversary

MAHMUD HAMS/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

PALESTINIAN HAMAS SUPPORTERS wave green Islamic flags Tuesday to mark the 23rd anniversary of the group's founding in Gaza City. Tens of thousands of supporters flocked to Gaza City to boost support for Hamas, often torn between its roots as a militant group seeking to destroy Israel and a local government responsible for providing services to 1.5 million Gazans.

New Iwo Jima Mission

Japan PM visits site of mass grave, vows to find more bodies

Ioto, Japan

In a rare visit to Iwo Jima, Japan's prime minister offered prayers Tuesday at two recently discovered mass graves and vowed to find the more-than 12,000 fallen soldiers whose bodies have yet to be recovered from the remote island where some of World War II's fiercest fighting took place.

Kneeling in a deep pit with dozens of remains spread out before him, Naoto Kan clasped his hands in prayer and then helped searchers exhume a badly decayed set of bones swathed in a faded green body bag. Workers said it was one of more than 20 found on Tuesday alone.

"We will examine every grain of sand," Kan said, adding he had wanted to visit the island since the discovery in August of the mass graves.

Now known in Japan as Ioto — that was what the island was called by residents before the war — Iwo Jima was the site of one of the most fateful and iconic battles in the Pacific and helped turn the tide against the Japanese.

Iwo Jima has been generally ignored since the war, has been left largely untouched and is now uninhabited except for a few hundred troops at a small Japanese military outpost. Kan is only the second prime minister to visit the island. Junichiro Koizumi was the first, five years ago.

ERIC TALMADGE (AP)

DAVID GUTTENFELDER/AP

Workers exhume the remains of a mass grave in Ioto (Iwo Jima), Japan, Tuesday.

Backstory

Naoto Kan's government, inspired in part by the success in Japan of the 2006 Clint Eastwood movie "Letters From Iwo Jima" and concerned that time is running out, has made a strong effort to bring closure on Iwo Jima by stepping up the civilian-run mission to recover all of the Japanese dead. That project began in July and took a big step forward in October, when two mass graves were discovered. (AP)

Sunni-Backed Politician to Join Iraqi Government

Baghdad

The head of a Sunni-backed political party will join the Shiite-led government being assembled by his top rival, a spokeswoman said Tuesday, clearing a final hurdle to end months of tortuous, postelection dealmaking.

The breakthrough cements what the Obama administration has been pushing for as U.S. troops prepare to leave Iraq by the end of 2011: an inclusive government that distributes power among Sunnis, Shiites and Kurds to forge stability after more than seven years of war.

Allawi

Former premier Ayad Allawi had held out for months, insisting that he or one of his allies should be the next prime minister since his secular Iraqiya party narrowly won more seats than any other alliance in the March parliamentary election. He had long said he would refuse to join a government led by Shiite Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki, who many Sunni Muslims view with suspicion.

But after what appeared to be a warm 90-minute meeting between the two on Tuesday, Iraqiya spokeswoman Maysoun al-Damlouji said Allawi has agreed to join the government as head of a newly created council to oversee security and foreign policy issues. (AP)

354 **The number of fake Faberge eggs** French customs officials uncovered in two parcels coming from Russia on Nov. 15. Despite a stamp on the boxes showing a two-headed eagle, officials seized the eggs. "We were very interested because they were declared as [Faberge] eggs and we wanted to see them," said Michel Horn, head of the airport's customs services. The fake treasure trove of eggs were displayed for reporters Tuesday. (AP)

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Man Accused in Bomb Plot

An Arlington resident is arrested after threatening Metro cars on Facebook

An Arlington man has been arrested after posting on Facebook that he could put pipe bombs on Metro cars or in Georgetown at rush hour, according to a criminal complaint filed in U.S. District Court in Alexandria.

Court papers do not show that Awais Younis, 25, also known as Mohhanme Khan and Sundullah Ghilzai, ever acted on the threats. He has been charged with communicating threats via interstate communications.

In late November, someone told FBI agents in New Orleans that a person they had met via Facebook had chatted about using explosives in the D.C. area, court papers say. The person, known as Sundullah Ghilzai, described how to build a pipe bomb and indicated what type of shrapnel would cause the most damage.

Ghilzai said he could put a pipe bomb under a sewer head in Georgetown at rush hour to cause the greatest number of casualties, according to an affidavit filed in court by the FBI. He also talked about putting bombs on the third and fifth Metro cars, which he said held the largest number of passengers.

Younis' arrest came the same week that a 21-year-old Baltimore man was accused in a plot to bomb a military recruiting center.

Antonio Martinez, 21, who recently converted to Islam and changed his name to Muhammad Hussain, is accused of trying to kill members of the military who he saw as a threat to Muslims. The FBI learned of his radical leanings on Facebook, joined his plot and supplied him with a fake car bomb that he tried to detonate, federal officials said. **MARIA GLOD (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

More Bus Money

The Washington region is getting $58.8 million in stimulus funds to improve bus service and create better connections between buses and other forms of transportation. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood announced the Transportation Investments Generating Economic Recovery grants Tuesday. (AP)

METRO PULSE

Mayor-elect Gray is bringing in a new director for DDOT. What are your top transit priorities?

"As someone who drives, walks, takes the bus and takes Metro, I want everything being thought of as a whole. When they decide to do something like the 15th Street bike lane, they need to think about the impact that has on the rest of the traffic."

Roberta Ritvo, COLUMBIA HEIGHTS

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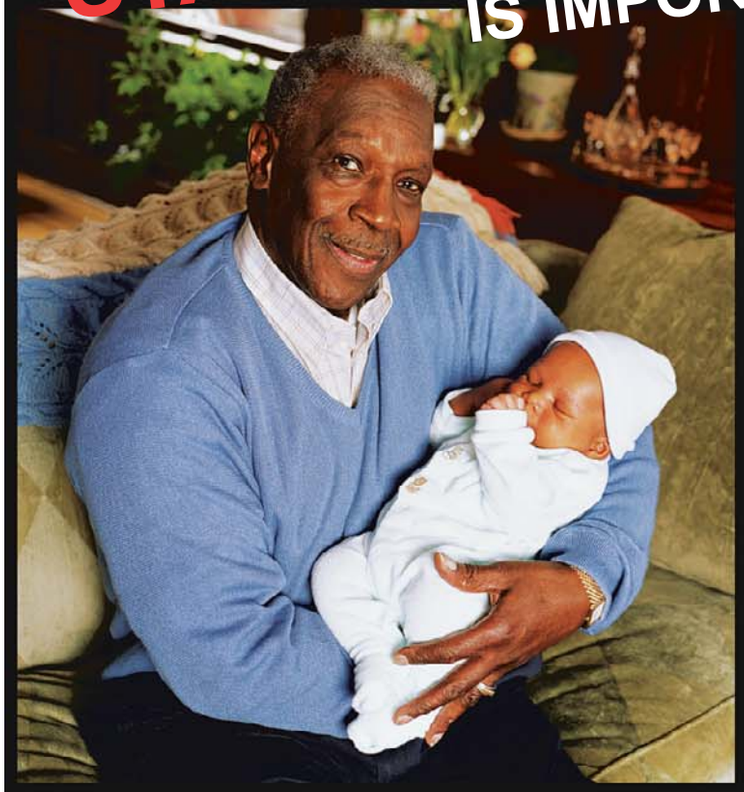

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Howard to Cut Programs

University will offer streamlined majors, refocus on research

Washington

Howard University is concluding the broadest academic review in its 143-year history, hoping to shed weak programs and bolster strong ones in order to compete in the increasingly fierce contest for America's top black scholars.

Howard offers 171 academic programs, an uncommonly large number for a university of 10,500 students. The range is a product of the institution's historic role as the epicenter of African American scholarship. But university leaders believe that the sheer number of offerings has become unwieldy, draining resources better spent pursuing excellence in core areas.

Howard will still turn out many of the nation's African American doctors and dentists, psychologists and engineers. But the university is considering cutting its undergraduate programs in philosophy, anthropology, the classics and even African studies — a specialty with symbolic importance to many in the Howard community.

DOUG KAPUSTIN/FTWP

Howard University in D.C. offers 171 academic programs to its 10,500 students.

Altogether, Howard President Sidney Ribeau has proposed closing or reducing 20 undergraduate degree programs and at least that many graduate programs.

"You can't do everything at once," said Ribeau, who became the university's president in 2008.

Critics "make the arguments that without Howard, their disciplines would not be as diverse," said Alvin Thornton, a renowned Howard scholar who led the academic review under Ribeau. "The question is: Can Howard continue to be the source of that diversity across such a broad list of disciplines?"

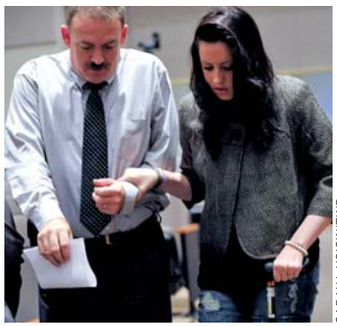
The final academic renewal plan will be published next month. It will refocus Howard on research that resonates among Africans and African Americans: clean water; AIDS and cancer; urban education and public policy. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Medevac Crash Survivor Sues Government for $50M

Greenbelt, Md.

The sole survivor of a 2008 Maryland medevac crash is suing the federal government for $50 million.

The suit filed on behalf of Jordan Wells last week in U.S. District Court in Greenbelt alleges Federal Aviation Administration air traffic controllers provided outdated weather information. It also says they didn't dispatch an adequate rescue response after the crash.



SARAH L. VOISIN/TWP

Jordan Wells, right, was the sole survivor of a 2008 medevac helicopter crash.

Wells and 17-year-old Ashley Younger, who died in the crash, were being transported for medical treatment after a car accident. Pilot Stephen Bunker and two state workers also died in the crash.

The National Transportation Safety Board concluded that a combination of factors caused the crash, including outdated weather information and a pilot not proficient in instrument landing approaches. (AP)

Unprepared: A new report names the District of Columbia as understaffed in the event of an infectious disease outbreak. The report by the Trust for America's Health was released Tuesday and is the eighth annual report from the organization. This year, Washington scored a 7 out of 10 on preparedness for public health emergencies. That score was better than 11 other states' scores and tied with seven others. Last year, D.C. got an 8 out of 10. (AP)

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Local

Area Officials Support Metro Oversight Group

Washington

Officials in Maryland, Virginia and the District of Columbia say they will withhold Metro infrastructure funding if the transit agency doesn't resolve concerns raised by the group that oversees safety in the system.

The step gives a measure of power to the Tri-State Oversight Committee that was nearly unknown before the fatal 2009 crash on Metro's Red Line. Before this agreement, the committee had no way to force Metro to comply with its safety recommendations. **(AP)**

Airport Shuttle Driver Charged In Hit-and-Run

Fairfax, Va.

Virginia State police say a SuperShuttle van driver has been charged in a hit-and-run crash, one of several crashes on I-66 and the Dulles Connector Road Monday.

Muhammed Teshale, 25, of Alexandria is charged with one felony count of hit-and-run.

Police say about 9:25 a.m. Monday, the shuttle was traveling west on I-66 when it sideswiped a car and rear-ended another vehicle. The van then struck a taxi, running it off the road. Two people were hurt. **(AP)**

Glacial Winds Blow Through D.C.

MATT MCCLAIN/FTWP

STUDENTS FROM SOUTH RIVER HIGH SCHOOL in Edgewater, Md., warm up under a heater outside the National Portrait Gallery while waiting for their bus after they visited the Marian Koshland Science Museum Tuesday. A cold front brought below-freezing temperatures and 20 mph winds in D.C.

The Lotteries

Tuesday, Dec. 14

District

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	6-7-9
Evening Lucky Numbers (Mon.)	0-2-3
Mid-day DC 4	4-6-7-5
Evening DC 4 (Mon.)	4-3-2-9
Mid-day D.C. Five	8-0-0-4-2
Evening D.C. Five (Mon.)	9-5-2-3-4

Maryland

Mid-day Pick 3	4-1-4
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	9-6-9
Mid-day Pick 4	1-1-7-4
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	6-6-4-8
Match 5 (Mon.)	7-21-24-26-27 (13)

Virginia

Mid-day Pick 3	7-4-0
Evening Pick 3 (Mon.)	5-9-6
Mid-day Pick 4	2-5-4-4
Evening Pick 4 (Mon.)	4-5-2-1
Mid-day Cash 5 (Tues.)	2-8-12-15-32
Evening Cash 5 (Mon.)	1-21-24-29-32

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a claims location. Drawings that occur after Express' deadline will be published two days later.

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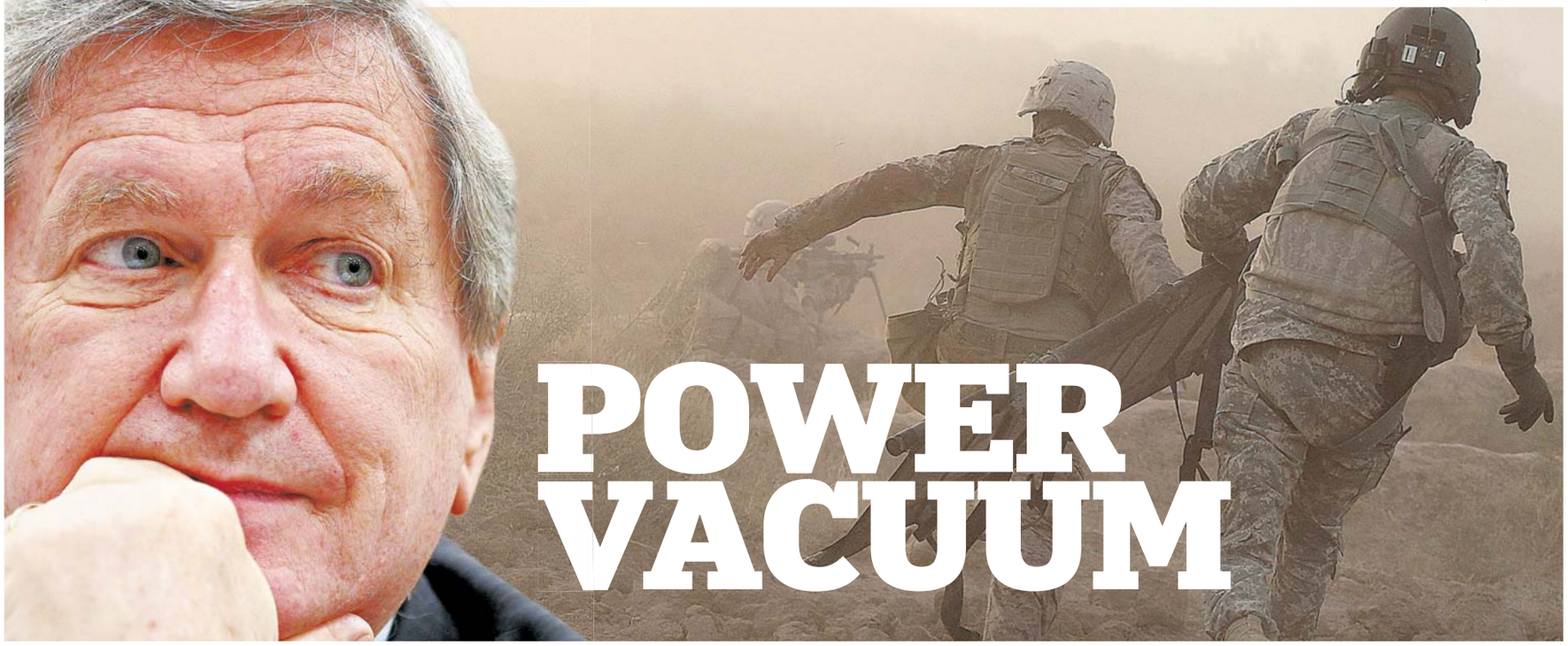
EXPRESS ILLUSTRATION; GETTY IMAGES



POWER VACUUM

Holbrooke's death leaves a major void in U.S. war efforts in Afghanistan

Washington

President Obama and his advisers gathered at the White House on Tuesday to review U.S. strategy in Afghanistan, a day after Richard C. Holbrooke, special envoy to the region, died of complications from a torn aorta. His absence leaves a major void in what has always been the most difficult aspect of a high-risk, high-stakes war.

Tactical military gains have given the administration optimism that Taliban momentum, if not yet reversed, has been stalled. The Afghan army, while still shaky, is growing in size and ability.

But progress in creating a viable and sustainable Afghan government and economy, despite the expenditure of billions of dollars and the efforts of more than 1,000 U.S. officials on the ground, has been an uphill battle, and President Hamid Karzai has been an erratic partner. Meanwhile, neighboring Pakistan's stability and determination to rout al-Qaeda and Taliban insurgents from border regions remain uncertain.

A 'Giant' Loss

A foreign policy adviser to four Democratic presidents, Richard Holbrooke was a towering, one-of-a-kind presence who helped define American national security strategy over 40 years and three wars by connecting Washington politicians with New York elites and influential figures in capitals worldwide. He seemed to live on airplanes and move with equal confidence through Upper East Side cocktail parties, the halls of the White House and the slums of Pakistan.

Holbrooke's most significant achievement occurred in 1995, at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base outside Dayton, Ohio, when he forged a deal among bitter rivals to end three years of bloody sectarian war in the former Yugoslavia that killed an estimated 100,000 people. The talks, which lasted 20 days, would not have taken place had he not spent three months shuttling among the principal Serbian, Croatian and Muslim leaders to cajole, arm-twist and threaten, while also employing the bone-jarring power of U.S.-led NATO airstrikes.

President Obama praised him as "a true giant of American foreign policy who has made America stronger, safer and more respected." (TWP)

WORLD REACTION

"Pakistan has lost a friend. The best tribute to him is to reiterate our resolve to root out extremism and usher in peace and stability."
—PAKISTANI PRESIDENT ASIF ALI ZARDARI

"The protracted Afghan war and the descending trajectory of the Americans' handling of the warfare in the country had had a lethal dent on Holbrooke's health."
— A TALIBAN STATEMENT RELEASED TUESDAY

Holbrooke was well regarded in Pakistan but viewed with suspicion in Afghanistan. In Islamabad Tuesday, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi said the diplomat's death, at age 69, "has left a huge vacuum."

But in Kabul, Karzai's legal adviser complained that Holbrooke viewed Afghanistan's problems through the prism of its neighbor. "He was paying more attention to Pakistan and India rather than Afghanistan," said the adviser, Nasrullah Stanikzai.

Holbrooke's death is the latest complication in an effort plagued by unreliable partners, reluctant allies and an increasingly skeptical American public. Operating from a suite of offices on the State Department's ground floor, he personally collected his staff from throughout the government and far beyond. He gathered academics and experts from think tanks and academia, steeped in the region and its history, language and culture. He was the glue that held the enterprise together, and his absence is likely to increase the already formidable challenge the administration faces.

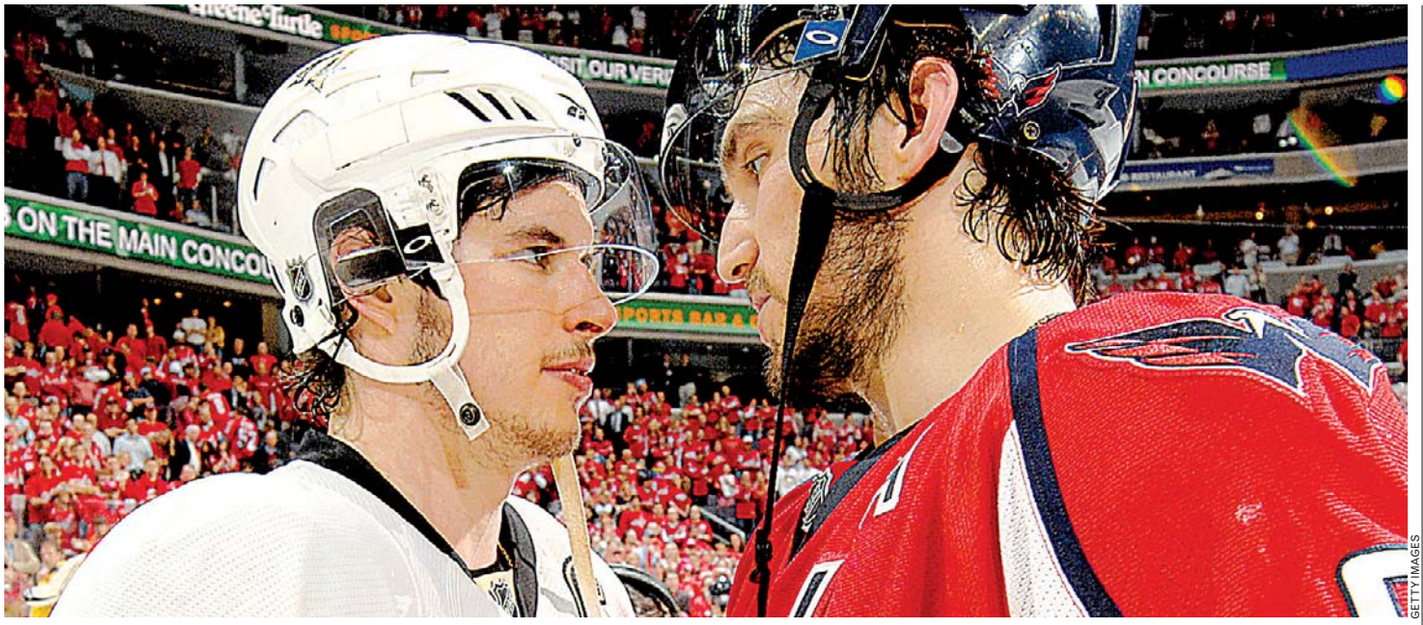
Holbrooke persistently pressed Karzai — often to the point of risking their relationship — to end the kickbacks and bribes that plague his government. But efforts to substitute Afghanistan's widespread opium crop with wheat ran into opposition from farmers, a fall in international grain prices and attacks from the Taliban.

Even in the end, his final thoughts were on the war. As Holbrooke was sedated for heart surgery this weekend, family members said, his final words — said in jest — were to his Pakistani surgeon: "You've got to stop this war in Afghanistan." (THE WASHINGTON POST)

STATUS REPORT

President Obama's Afghanistan war review will conclude the United States has made enough security gains to begin withdrawing troops in July, but the findings will also emphasize lasting troubles, from Afghanistan's ability to serve its people to Pakistani havens for extremists. In a detailed preview of statements Obama will make Thursday, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said the yearlong review of Obama's war plan will offer no surprise. The president plans to stick with his pledge to start drawing home troops next summer after ordering one year ago that 30,000 more troops be sent to Afghanistan to blunt the Taliban's momentum. The goal of coalition forces is to shift control to Afghan security forces by the end of 2014. A summary of the classified war report is expected to be released Thursday, when Obama will speak about the effort from the White House. (AP)

Sports



GETTY IMAGES

Sidney Crosby's Penguins were on a 12-game winning streak heading into Tuesday night's action, while Alex Ovechkin's Capitals are trying to snap a six-game skid Wednesday.

Ready for Their Close-Up?

The Capitals face HBO's bright lights amid losing streak

7 P.M. Wed. | CSN

The Capitals

The NFL has been a big hit with HBO for years with the groundbreaking reality program "Hard Knocks."

Now, it's the NHL's turn. And right in the center of the new HBO series are the two players you'd most expect: Alex Ovechkin and Sidney Crosby.

In preparation for Wednesday night's premier episode of "24/7 Penguins-Capitals: Road to the Winter Classic," cameras have been following the Capitals since early December. The first episode will air at 10 p.m., just after the Caps seek to snap a six-game losing skid when hosting the Anaheim Ducks.

Each hour-long episode promises to bring a unique look into the daily dealings of the two teams set to meet on New Year's Day at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

To help showcase life in an NHL club, the Capitals granted HBO unprecedented access to the team.

"I don't think you ever become fully adjusted to it," said forward Matt Hendricks. "It's different, that's for sure. You just try to go through your pre-game routines and forget about them."

A Caps spokesman said each episode is finished the morning of the show's debut, and the team does have some say in what makes the final cut.

Players aren't told what segments will make the show, but they assume that some prominent story lines will be featured — such as the team's losing streak and its trade that brought defenseman Scott Hannan to Washington.

"They got me the first day I was here, coming to the rink for the first time," Hannan said. "Then they filmed me shopping for condos."

HBO joins the Caps amid coach Bruce Boudreau's worst losing streak in his NHL coaching career, which creates a stark parallel to the incandescent Pittsburgh Penguins, who had won 12-straight games heading into Tuesday night's action.

It's a contrast Washington center Nicklas Backstrom is aware of, and one he wants to turn around as cameras track their slump.

"They're watching your every step you take, but that's something you have to deal with," he said. "Hopefully, we can start winning again so we can show them who we really are." REED S. ALBERS

The Ryan Effect

Capitals players are hoping they don't come off as the next Rex Ryan, the New York Jets coach who cursed his way to stardom on "Hard Knocks" this past August. Ryan's foul language on camera even drew the ire of former Colts coach Tony Dungy. "I hope they bleep some stuff out," defenseman Scott Hannan said. "I don't want my kid hearing that at home." R.A.

Showcased Stars: The time is right for NHL stars Sidney Crosby and Alex Ovechkin to put aside their rivalry in a bid to promote the Winter Classic. The Penguins and Capitals captains will appear together on the game show "The Price Is Right" on CBS on Monday. With retired star Jeremy Roenick, they'll introduce an NHL-themed showcase that includes a trip to Pittsburgh for their teams' New Year's Day meeting outdoors at Heinz Field. (AP)

Swengali

Is Caps Coach's Time Running Out?

Bruce Boudreau is going to be fired.

He knows as much. The only question: When will it happen?

I don't say this because the Capitals are mired in a six-game losing streak. Nor is it a result of a humiliating 7-0 loss to the New York Rangers on Sunday.

By Matt Swenson

Boudreau will get the ax because that's what happens to coaches in the NHL.

It's an easy switch for struggling clubs to make and usually pays off with a sudden turnaround. Just ask the Pittsburgh Penguins (yes, it always comes back to the Pens), who made a mid-season replacement in 2008 to Dan Bylsma, who hoisted the Stanley Cup at the end of that season.

Bruce Boudreau will get the ax because that's what happens to coaches in the NHL.

Boudreau is now in his fourth season in Washington, which looked like a whole new team when "Gabby" took over on Thanksgiving Day 2007.

After years at the bottom of the standings, the Caps have made the playoffs three-straight years.

Last year's first-round defeat was crushing mainly because the coach had raised the expectations, and fan interest, so much.

His success is why the Caps are not among the 23 NHL teams with coaches in their third year or less.

Capitals General Manager George McPhee surely knows that, which is why he won't panic and make a switch just yet.

But Boudreau is on borrowed time, with his only comfort being that it's been a great run in D.C.

To reach Matt Swenson, e-mail matt.swenson@readexpress.com

TWP

Terps assistant James Franklin has interviewed twice in person at Vanderbilt.

Sources: Franklin Headed to Vandy

Maryland offensive coordinator expected to take SEC position

Terps Football

James Franklin, Maryland's offensive coordinator and head coach-in-waiting, is expected to become the next head football coach at Vanderbilt, according to two sources close to Franklin with knowledge of the negotiations.

Contract details were being negotiated Tuesday, and barring an unforeseen roadblock, Franklin could be announced as Vanderbilt's head coach this week.

ESPN.com also reported that Franklin is expected to accept the offer.

Vanderbilt officials reached out to Franklin and individuals close to Franklin beginning Monday night, hours after Vanderbilt's top choice, Auburn offensive coordinator Gus Malzahn, withdrew from negotiations.

Franklin has had two in-person interviews with Vanderbilt officials and emerged as a finalist last week.

It remains to be seen whether Kevin Anderson, Maryland's first-year athletic director, will make a last-ditch effort to entice Franklin to stay. Auburn reportedly more than doubled Malzahn's salary, making him the highest-paid assistant in the Southeastern Conference. A request to speak to Anderson was made Tuesday morning.

If Franklin remains at Maryland, he is owed $1 million if he is not named the Terrapins' head coach by January 2012. (THE WASHINGTON POST)

Accolades Are in Order

No. 1 Auburn will have an All-American on each side of the ball when the Tigers play for the national championship. Heisman Trophy winner Cam Newton and DT Nick Fairley were voted to the AP All-America team along with Oregon RB LaMichael James, who will face Auburn in the BCS title game in Glendale, Ariz., on Jan. 10. (AP)

Terps' White Signs With United

D.C. United

Ethan White, a sophomore central defender for the University of Maryland, is leaving school to sign with D.C. United. The Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School graduate rose through United's youth academy and will sign a contract under the MLS homegrown initiative, which encourages clubs to develop and sign emerging players.

White, who turns 20 on Jan. 1, started 43 matches in two seasons in College Park.

Said United coach Ben Olsen: "We have been following Ethan for a long time with our academy and at the University of Maryland, and we think he is a great prospect for this club."

White joins a United backline in need of depth, particularly in central positions. He is the fourth homegrown player signed by United in the past 15 months, joining goalkeeper Bill Hamid (Annandale High), midfielder Andy Najar (Edison) and midfielder Conor Shanosky (Potomac Falls). (THE WASHINGTON POST)

TV Lineup

CAPITALS (7 P.M., CSN) The Caps look for their first win in seven games when hosting the Anaheim Ducks.

PRO HOCKEY (7 P.M., VERSUS) The first-place Pittsburgh Penguins face off against the New York Rangers.

PRO BASKETBALL (7 P.M., 9:30 P.M., ESPN) The Boston Celtics put their 10-game winning streak on the line against the New York Knicks' eight-game win streak, followed by the Dallas Mavericks hosting the Portland Trail Blazers.

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Sports

Phillies Cash in With Lee

Huge contract adds ace to already strong pitching rotation

Pro Baseball

It turns out the Philadelphia Phillies do have enough money for both Cliff Lee and Roy Halladay — and Roy Oswalt and Cole Hamels, too.

A year after the Phillies traded him away, Lee chose to rejoin them and form a fearsome foursome who are the envy of all of baseball.

The free-agent pitcher passed up an extra $30 million from the New York Yankees and reached a preliminary agreement on a $120 million, five-year contract with the Phillies, two people familiar with the deal told The Associated Press.

Lee approved the idea of signing with Philadelphia on Monday night when talks hit the $100 million mark, one person said, adding that final negotiations brought the figure higher.

The agreement includes a buyout of a 2016 option and is subject to the 32-year-old left-hander's passing a physical, the person said on condition of anonymity because the agreement was not final.

GETTY IMAGES

Cliff Lee signed with the Phillies Monday, a year after the team traded him to Seattle.

> **"It would have been a matter of us saying yes on terms that we weren't comfortable with."**
>
> — RANGERS MANAGING PARTNER **CHUCK GREENBERG**, WHO BALKED AT A SEVEN-YEAR CONTRACT FOR CLIFF LEE.

The Yankees and Texas Rangers had been considered the frontrunners, but the Phillies wound up with the most-prized free agent of the offseason, reaching a deal that gives them a dominant rotation that likely is the strongest in the majors.

Lee, the 2008 AL Cy Young Award winner, joins Halladay, a two-time Cy Young Award winner who won the NL honor last month, making Philly the early World Series favorite. **(AP)**

Clarifications

EARL WEAVER isn't dead, despite a New York Times column this weekend that placed the former Baltimore Orioles manager "somewhere in Heaven." Speaking to the Baltimore Sun, the very-much-alive Weaver responded to the grave news. "I'll be damned," he told the paper. "All I can is say is say, 'That's false.'" **(EXPRESS)**

Veteran Stairs Signs With Nats

The Nationals

Pinch-hitter Matt Stairs has agreed to a non-guaranteed, minor league contract with the Washington Nationals.

Washington announced the deal Tuesday and said Stairs will be invited to the team's major league spring training camp.

He turns 43 in February.

Stairs holds the career record with 23 pinch-hit homers, 15 more than any other active player.

He has played for 12 big league teams and homered for 11, both tied for the career record.

In 18 major league seasons, he has a .264 batting average, 265 homers and 897 RBI.

With the NL West-contending San Diego Padres last season, Stairs hit .232 with six homers and 16 RBI in 99 at-bats.

His four pinch-hit homers tied for the lead in the majors. **(AP)**

The Stairs File

- Matt Stairs debuted in the majors on May 29, 1992. Nats No. 1 draft pick Bryce Harper was born about five months later.
- Stairs hit a dramatic home run that gave the Philadelphia Phillies a 3-1 lead in the National League Championship Series against the L.A. Dodgers in 2008 — a signature moment for his solid career.
- By the time he has 29, Stairs had just 263 big league at-bats. **(TWP)**

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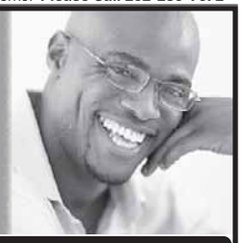

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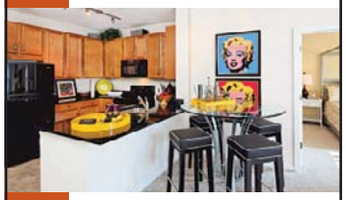

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- w/d/dw/wwcpt
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must move in by 12-30-10 | *We're Waiting For You!!!!*
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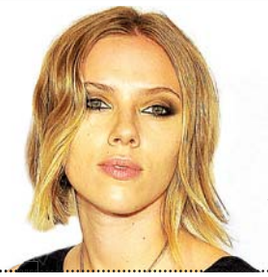

Back on the Market
Scarlett and Ryan break up after two years of marriage 35

Geek Philosophy

DISNEY ENTERPRISES

Prophetic 'Tron'

I'm still waiting for my lightsaber, and I don't expect to be beaming up to the Enterprise any time soon. Which is why I must admit I'm impressed — and maybe a little disappointed — that a flop science fiction film such as "Tron," rather than hits such as "Star Wars" and "Star Trek," is the one that has been the most prophetic.

By Kenneth Terrell

Granted , I haven't played chicken on a light-cycle yet, so when it comes to hardware, "Tron" gets a fail, too. But with midnight screenings of the sequel "Tron: Legacy" (shown above, with Michael Sheen) starting tomorrow night, it's time to admit the 1982 original kind of nailed the fact that one day we would all live inside our computers.

While we can't upload our bodies to Facebook, Twitter or YouTube right now, those networks, along with our smartphones and e-mail accounts, pretty much define our lives. Games like "World of Warcraft," virtual worlds where you truly assume another life, make "Tron's" foresight even more undeniable.

Other than expensive 3-D effects and innovative music from Daft Punk, I don't know what to expect from "Tron: Legacy." But you can bet I'll be watching it with an eye on the future.

@ Comments? Give Kenneth your feedback: **expressnightout.com/geek**

BRENDON THORNE/GETTY

The Oprah Winfrey Network offers a new way for the media mogul to share her inspirational message

ON HER OWN

70

The number of hours per year Oprah is slated to appear on the OWN network in 2011, including on a reality show chronicling her talk show's final season, according to Businessweek.com.

TV Preview

As her many fans know, Oprah Winfrey champions a few golden rules: Take charge of your life. Look beyond yourself to learn how others took charge. Always remember if you can dream it, you can do it.

Another Oprah principle the wise know to heed: Never bet against her.

That's a rule worth keeping in mind, especially now, as the long-awaited OWN: Oprah Winfrey Network gears up for its premiere on New Year's Day.

The bold ambition of this venture would spark doubts if there were anybody else's name attached. Consider: a cable network started from scratch (actually, repurposed from Discovery Health, whose channel it will claim) and all-dependent on just one person's identity, vision and marquee power.

But that person is Winfrey, a cultural force perhaps unrivaled in the world. Now, as she moves through the final months of her daytime syndicated talk show, which will end next September after 25 years, OWN is poised to become Winfrey's new TV home base.

Instead of a daily hour boasting Winfrey's presence as host, OWN will be a round-the-clock environment in which — her network vows — she will often be seen but always felt. She will be the network's spiritual curator, maintaining a constant presence, even from off-camera, as she offers a slate of programs all guaranteed to meet her "Live Your Best Life" mandate.

It's a cable-network start-up packed with as-yet-unproven shows. But these shows — 600 hours of original programming airing in 2011 — are endorsed by TV's most trusted figure. "The Oprah Winfrey Show" will soon end, but, according to Winfrey, it is serving as a prism for the spectrum of programs OWN means to air.

"I want to take what I've established in daytime — inspiring people and giving them hope, and some cars — and build on that, 24/7, OWN-style," Winfrey said last spring. FRAZIER MOORE (AP)

Meanwhile ...

Injury Down Under

While filming "The Oprah Winfrey Show" in Australia Tuesday, Winfrey had to play nurse to Hugh Jackman after he was injured performing a stunt. While flying above the audience via zip line, Jackman flew into a lighting fixture and hurt his eye. He later returned to the stage with a bandage on his face and a bruise on his cheek, according to MovieWeb.com. (EXPRESS)

Compiled by Fiona Zublin. For more upcoming events, follow the Top Stops blog at expressnightout.com/topstops.

expressnightout.com lookout

top stops

1 Turkey Around

Sure, the live burlesque — with Wham Bam Pam and Stella Sweet, among others — is going to take up most of the night. But the real draw of the Turducken Burlesque Fest at Red Palace is obviously the turducken, an unholy (though scrumptious) marriage of turkey, duck and chicken. Just when we thought Thanksgiving was over.

Red Palace, 1210 H St. NE; 9 p.m., $15; 202-399-3201.

2 Hometown Anthems

We're total suckers for bands that write about D.C. landmarks, but it helps that Ugly Purple Sweater's anthem "Jumbo Slice" is incredibly catchy. It'll be playing at Red Palace, and we're hoping for new songs called "Amsterdam Falafel" and possibly "Fry Captain." And "Try Not to Set Your Kitchen on Fire When Making Mac and Cheese at 4 a.m."

Red Palace, 1210 H St. NE; Thu., 9 p.m., $8; 202-399-3201.

3 Self-Evident Truths

We first became interested in "Lost Rights" because the controversy it covers — the theft of an original copy of the Constitution from North Carolina at the end of the Civil War and the squabble over its return — was a minor plot point on "The West Wing." But that doesn't mean we're not interested in historical research and the lecture by David Howard, left. ***National Archives, Pennsylvania Avenue at 7th Street NW; noon, free; 866-272-6272. (Archives)***

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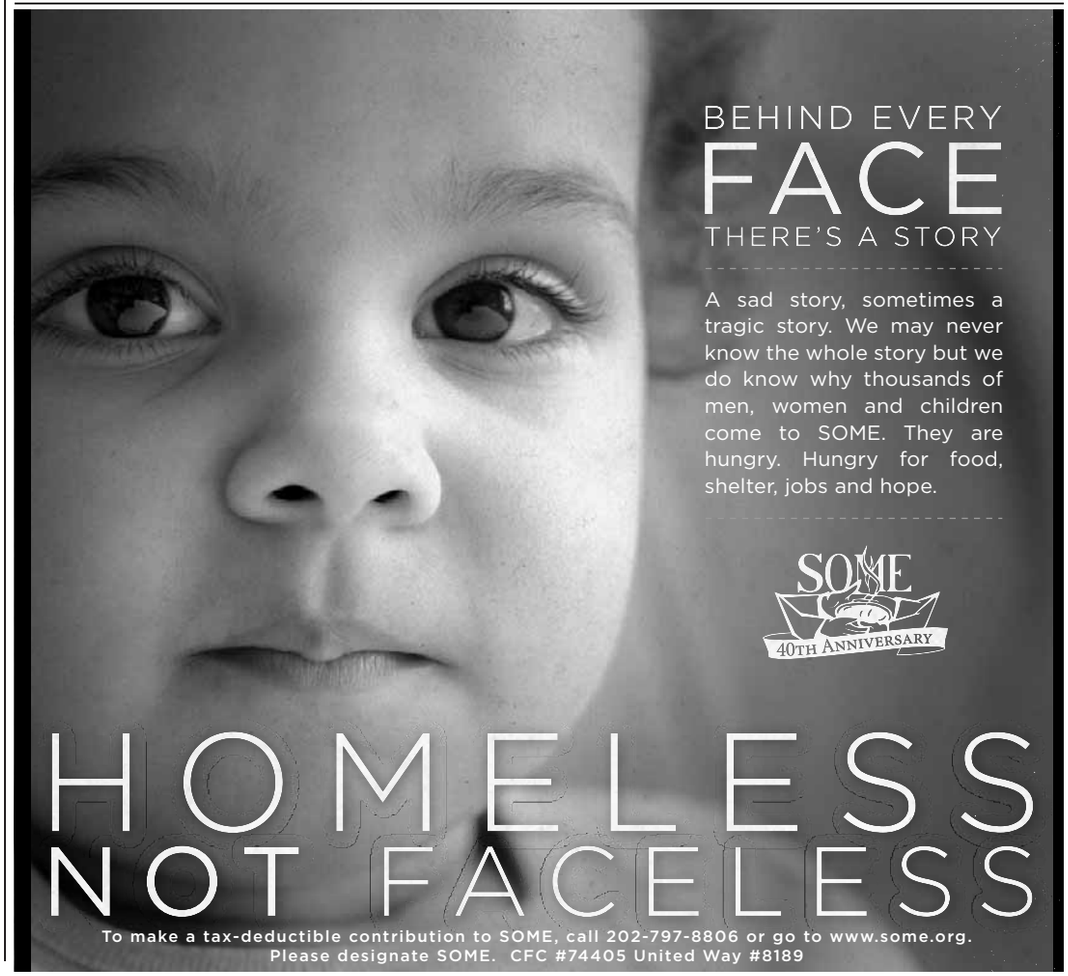


Posthumous Disgrace

'Michael' is a glaringly dull departure from the singer's oeuvre

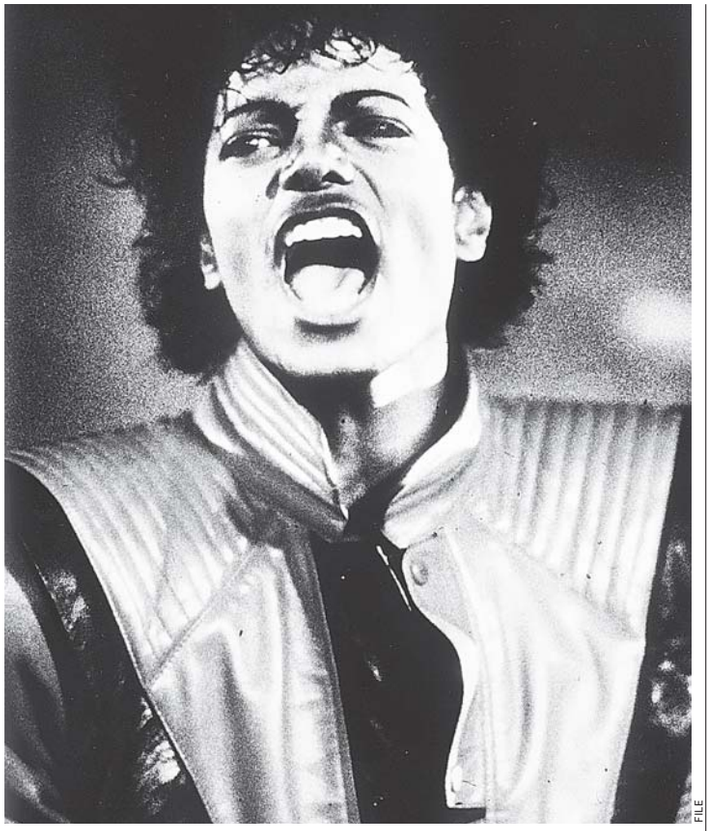
Album Review

If you've ever dreamed of Michael Jackson singing into your answering machine, then you have a reason to pick up "Michael," the first posthumous album from a singer who's sold more than 35 million albums worldwide since his sudden death in the summer of 2009.

On the album's fourth track, "(I Like) The Way You Love Me," that angelic voice comes trickling from the speakers, small and scratchy in what appears to be a voice-mail message to himself — a quick melodic sketch and some beat-boxing for Jackson to revisit once he gets home from a busy day of shopping, or roller-coaster riding, or whatever the lost pop genius was doing in his final days.

It's a rare glimpse into Jackson's working process, one of the countless facets of his life that he carefully hid from the public eye. But when the song blooms into a glossy, full-bodied studio track, the sputtery, beat-boxed rhythm is immediately ditched for a feeble drumbeat. Someone else is at the controls.

That moment captures the debate surrounding this 10-track batch of Jackson leftovers. The singer obviously had no hand in the final product here, but many of these tunes are bland enough to make you wonder whether he had any hand in it at all. Longtime producer Quincy Jones and members of the Jackson family have questioned whether some of the voices on "Michael" are actually Michael's.



FILE

The King of Pop probably wouldn't have wanted the world to hear his unfinished tunes.

Many of these tunes are bland enough to make you wonder whether Michael Jackson had any hand in it at all.

Either way, it doesn't matter. The real Michael Jackson was a perfectionist who loved to burnish every note that came out of his lungs. Just as last year's "This Is It" was a concert film culled from rehearsal footage Jackson would never want us to see, "Michael" is an album of unfinished songs that Jackson would never want us to hear.

And that's a drag because we're probably going to be hearing this stuff for the rest of the decade. The Jackson estate has reportedly signed a $250 million deal that should pump posthumous albums into the marketplace for the next seven Christmases, at least.

Michael
Michael Jackson

Only in Jackson's pop kingdom can such disgusting practices fly. No one writes the missing chapters of an unfinished novel and credits the author. Why let 50 Cent rap over a mere sketch of a tune and call it a new Michael Jackson song? (It happens here with "Monster.") For anyone who has adored Jackson's brilliance — i.e. all of us — this is sickening stuff. **CHRIS RICHARDS (THE WASHINGTON POST)**

Awards Watch

'King's' Cachet

The British monarchy tale "The King's Speech" (in local theaters Friday) led Golden Globe contenders Tuesday with seven nominations, including best drama and acting honors for Colin Firth, above; Helena Bonham Carter; and Geoffrey Rush. Other best-drama nominees were the psychosexual dance thriller "Black Swan," the boxing saga "The Fighter," the sci-fi blockbuster "Inception" and the Facebook chronicle "The Social Network." Nominees in the Globes' other best-picture category, for musical or comedy, are the Lewis Carroll fantasy "Alice in Wonderland," the song-and-dance extravaganza "Burlesque," the lesbian-family tale "The Kids Are All Right," the action romp "Red" and the romantic thriller "The Tourist." Ricky Gervais is returning as host of the Golden Globes ceremony, which will air live Jan. 16 on NBC. Academy Award nominations will be released on Jan. 25. **(AP)**

Early Swells of American New Wave

COURTESY CRITERION COLLECTION

Peter Fonda rides a Harley in the rambling 1969 road trip flick "Easy Rider."

DVD Set Review

In one of cinema's most glaring ironies, the creators of the Monkees — the "Prefab Four" whose TV series epitomized all that was square about the Establishment's appropriation of '60s counterculture — essentially bankrolled a very real counterculture. Producers Bob Rafelson and Bart Schneider created the fictitious rock quartet in 1966, and by 1968 they were making their first film, "Head," a mind trip that dismantled the Monkees' mythos.

"Head" was the first film released by what would become known as BBS, governed by Rafelson, Schneider and Steve Blauner, but guided by filmmakers such as Jack Nicholson and Dennis Hopper.

Criterion's excellent new set, "Lost & Found in America," collects seven of BBS's eight releases, from "Head" in 1968 through "The King of Marvin Gardens" in 1972. The films in between, including "The Last Picture Show" and "Easy Rider," make up the first swell of the American New Wave of filmmaking.

Hopper's debut, "Easy Rider," remains particularly relevant in its depiction of America as a country in constant conflict with itself. Peter Fonda and Hopper's protagonists are antiheroes: two hippie bikers who score a big drug deal, then ride cross-country to retire in Florida. Hopper intercuts their ramble with eloquent shots of the American landscape, as if he and ace cinematographer László Kovács were documenting something they knew was disappearing. **STEPHEN M. DEUSNER**

TV tonight lookout

Minds Over Machine?

Two past 'Jeopardy!' champions return to take on a computer

Preview

The game show "Jeopardy!" will pit man versus machine this winter in a competition that will show how successful scientists are in creating a computer that can mimic human intelligence.

Two of the venerable game show's most successful champions — Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter — will play two games against "Watson," a computer program developed by IBM's artificial intelligence team. The matches will be spread over three days that will air Feb. 14-16, the game show said on Tuesday.

JEOPARDY!/AP

Ken Jennings, left, and Brad Rutter are undaunted by artificial intelligence.

The competition is reminiscent of when IBM developed a chess-playing computer to compete against chess champion Garry Kasparov in 1997.

"Watson" is named for IBM founder Thomas J. Watson. IBM said its on-screen appearance will be represented by a round avatar.

The computer has already been tested in about 50 games against past "Jeopardy!" champions. But neither IBM nor "Jeopardy!" representatives would say what "Watson's" record was.

The winner gets a $1 million prize. IBM said it would donate its winnings to charity, while Jennings and Rutter said they would give half of their prize money away.

Jennings had the game show's longest winning streak, taking 74 games in a row during the 2004-2005 season. Rutter has won more money than any other "Jeopardy" player, nearly $3.3 million during his original appearance and three subsequent tournaments. (AP)

Best Bets

FOX 8:00

Human Target Chance faces a double mystery in this episode. His current client has retrograde amnesia, and he must help the man figure out not only who he is but who's trying to kill him. Winston (Chi McBride, right) reluctantly turns to his ex-wife for help.

CBS 9:00

Criminal Minds After vouching for an inmate's rehabilitation and helping him win parole, Morgan bitterly regrets his decision when the man murders someone just days after being released. Philip Casnoff, Rachel Nichols and Jayne Atkinson also guest-star.

FOX 9:00

Hell's Kitchen The slicing and dicing — not to mention the sweating and swearing — come to an end with the season finale of the reality series. One last challenge will determine which of the contestants who started the show has the right stuff, as determined by host Gordon Ramsay, far left.

PBS 9:00

Paris the Luminous Years Almost everyone who was anyone in the arts passed through Paris between 1905 and 1930. That period is the subject of this new documentary. Among those featured are Pablo Picasso, Marc Chagall and Ernest Hemingway. (TRIBUNE MEDIA)

Christmas Spirit

Heartwarming Holiday Gimmick

You know how it works: This time of year, if a series doesn't put a character into a "Christmas Carol" scenario, he gets the "It's a Wonderful Life" treatment. In this new episode of "Psych" (9 p.m. on USA), it's Henry, who finds himself wondering how his life would have turned out if he'd never come back to Santa Barbara. Then, Shawn travels through a series of dreams that shed light on what that Henry-free life would be like. Dule Hill, above, also stars in "The Polarizing Express." (TM)

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'Tis the Season to Save

Procrastinators can take advantage of year-end travel deals

Budget Travel

You've just finished off the leftover turkey and stuffing, and it's already time to worry about another holiday trip. But procrastinators may find good deals for Christmas and other year-end travel — if they act fast.

Study Up

Fares will be higher than last year, as they were for Thanksgiving. But airlines are starting to examine their December bookings and lowering fares on some flights where competition is tight or demand isn't as strong. For the traveler willing to study up and act soon, it could spell a decent flight deal for a holiday when domestic fares are expected to be up about 5 percent.

Sacrifices

Another way to snag a cheap fare is by being flexible. Many travelers won't have much wiggle room in their family plans or work schedules, but those who do should save big.

Travelers willing to travel on Christmas Day and return the next Tuesday will save the most, with an average fare of $351, Travelocity senior editor Genevieve Shaw Brown says. That compares with an overall average holiday fare this year of $421.

Travelers willing to travel on Christmas Day and return the next Tuesday will save the most.

In general, flight combinations with a return flight on Sunday are the most expensive, with the exception of a Christmas Eve departure. The most expensive combination of dates between Dec. 19 and 30 costs an average of $553 — flying out Christmas Day and returning the next day, Sunday.

Shift the holiday

Exhausted all your options and flights are just too expensive? Plan to have Christmas dinner at home and travel the week before or the week after New Year's. Those weeks are known as dead weeks in the travel industry because few people are flying. In fact, travelers the week before Christmas can find some of the cheapest prices all year.

SAMANTHA BOMKAMP (AP)

Fair Fare? Continental Airlines will let passengers hold a reservation and lock in a quoted ticket price for up to a week. The service, called FareLock, gives travelers three days or a week to decide whether to buy a ticket and avoid a fare increase or the chance that a preferred flight or fare will sell out. Continental said Monday it will charge a fee of at least $5 to hold a reservation for three days and at least $9 to hold it for a week. (AP)

Real Deals

A RUSSIAN ADVENTURE

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NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

NIAAA National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, USA

She Wants CANDY

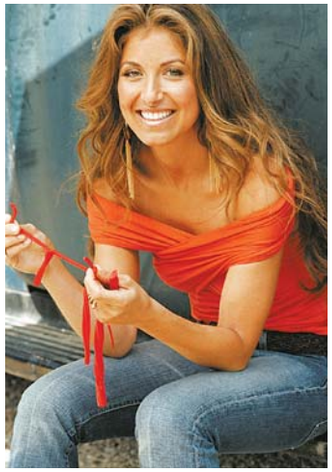
They don't call Dylan Lauren the Candy Queen for nothing. As founder/CEO of Dylan's Candy Bar shops and e-boutique (Dylanscandybar.com), she creates Technicolor fantasylands where sugar fiends can stock up on Jujubes, caramels and everything in between. She's like a modern-day Willy Wonka, but better dressed. (Dad is iconic fashion designer Ralph Lauren.) Her new book, "Dylan's Candy Bar: Unwrap Your Sweet Life" ($35, Clarkson Potter), shares her tips on bonbon-centric crafts and holiday celebrations. BETH LUBERECKI

What do you love about candy?
I love the colors, shapes and textures. Taste is important, too; I love cherry- and lemon-flavored things. Candy is like fun little jewels that aren't that caloric, as long as you're not eating a million of them.

What are some of your favorites?
I always love Marshmallow Fluff as an after-dinner thing. I love gummy bears, Swedish Fish, licorice.

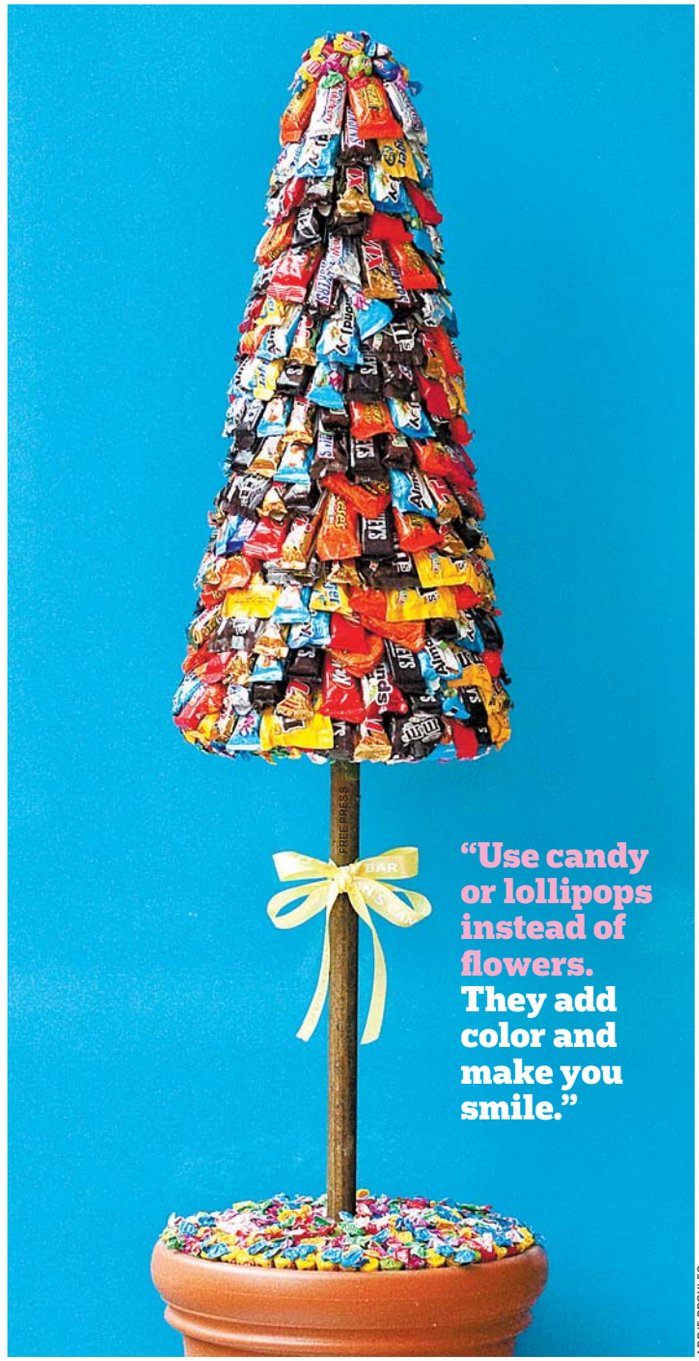
You must exercise a lot to work off all those sweets.
Living in New York, I walk everywhere. And I exercise because I love sports and working out. I have a trainer twice a week, and I do my own aerobics because I like to.

What's some of the weirdest stuff you have at your store now?
Jelly Belly put out a line of Harry Potter Bertie Bott's Beans in flavors like earwax and vomit. They're disgusting but creative.



Dylan Lauren eats—and decorates with—Twizzlers and other treats.

Any candy trends you're noticing these days?
I've seen a trend toward gluten-free, dairy-free, all the allergen-free things to satisfy everybody. I think some people are trying to make their packaging more eco-friendly, but that sometimes sacrifices colors.



"Use candy or lollipops instead of flowers. They add color and make you smile."

ADDIE BROYLES

For a sweet tree, staple chocolate bars to a cone and plant it in a pot of candy pieces.

How does candy inspire you in other areas of your life?
I love the way candy makes me feel. It feels good to look at, like, a gumball machine; it just makes me happy. In terms of art, I love Pop Art, and I do Pop Art, and I find candy a great medium to use. I use wrappers and gumballs for mosaics and decoupage. And just the way that candy brands have constantly reinvented themselves as a business I find inspiring. You see how long some brands have been around, and it makes me want to build a Mars- or a Wonka-like Dylan's Candy Bar line.

Can you use candy as home décor?
Yes. Candy itself makes for a good inset of pebbles in a vase. Or use candy or lollipops instead of flowers. They add color and make you smile.

You throw a lot of parties at your stores. What are some tips for incorporating candy when entertaining?
It makes a great garnish for cocktails or even a sweet flavor for a drink. Use fruit slices or gummy cherries as a garnish on a martini glass. If you're doing a color theme, say, for a sweet 16 — because a lot of girls like color themes — match the invitations with hot-pink candies. If it's a 21st birthday and the theme is the 1920s, black and white and silver is fun, and so many candies come in these colors.

What can you tell about a person from the kind of candy they eat?
Certain people I expect to be fancy-schmancy types who come from the Upper East Side end up eating gummies. When I see someone like that, I know that they're in touch with their inner child and have a sense of fun. You're so not pretentious when you can eat unsophisticated sweets. When someone only eats, like, dark chocolate from Europe, I think they're not as in touch with their inner creativity.

So, there's no need to feel guilty about indulging in some sweets once in awhile?
No, never! I don't think it's bad to have everything in moderation. Candy makes you feel good, and it's comforting. As long as you're eating other things, too.

Taste-Tested: Progresso brings to mind those soups you slurped nonstop during college, but the mega-brand also does a serious trade in other foodstuffs such as broth and beans. Its new Lemon Pepper Panko Bread Crumbs (about $3 a box, grocery stores) merge the line's Med-centric mission with Japanese-style crispy chunks of carbs. The zippy, mildly spiced stuff turned out a nice batch of oven "fried" chicken tenders; we'd also like to see it have it's way with a big old hunk of white fish. The crumbs also come in plain and Italian varieties, assuring you can throw on a coat in many different flavors. JENNIFER BARGER (EXPRESS)

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Poll Center

Today's Question

DO YOU THINK MICHAEL STEELE WILL WIN A SECOND TERM AS RNC CHAIRMAN?

VOTE AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM OR TEXT A FOR YES OR B FOR NO TO 98999

Yesterday's Results

IS IT UNCONSTITUTIONAL TO REQUIRE AMERICANS TO BUY HEALTH CARE INSURANCE?

"Of course it is unconstitutional. Congress says buy government health care insurance or we will fine you. That is not looking out for the people. That is a money-making scheme to fleece the public."

AN ANONYMOUS COMMENTER

"It will be a pivotal day in government control should they succeed in forcing a private citizen to purchase a consumer product. Following that, what would be next?"

COMMENTER ACROSSTHERIVER

SEE HOW YOUR METRO STATION VOTED AT WWW.EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

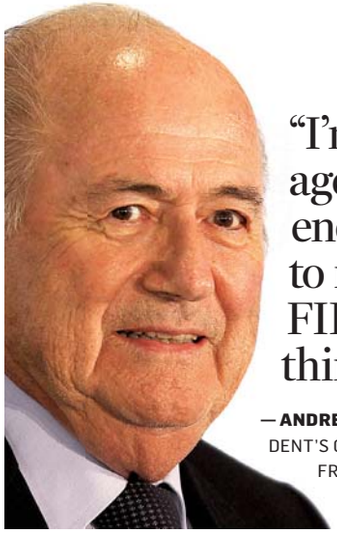
Blog Log

"When she blew out the candles, I'm sure she wished with all her might that people would take her seriously as an adult now that she's of legal drinking age and has a grown up hairdo. What else could she wish for?"

— **SOCIALITELIFE.COM** COMMENTS ON TAYLOR SWIFT, WHO TURNED 21 ON MONDAY.

"For some reason, the thought of the two companies, who have their own unique spins on the Snow White property, has the sounds of two cats hissing at each other ringing in my head."

— **LATINOREVIEW.COM** REACTS TO NEWS THAT THERE ARE TWO SNOW WHITE PROJECTS GREEN-LIT UNDER RELATIVITY MEDIA AND UNIVERSAL PICTURES, REPORTEDLY INVOLVING CHARLIZE THERON AND JULIA ROBERTS, RESPECTIVELY.



"I'm sorry, but in this day and age, an apology is nowhere near enough. It is time for Sepp Blatter to resign and for the [presidency] of FIFA to go to someone who doesn't think homophobia is funny."

— **ANDREWRUNNING.BLOGSPOT.COM** FOUND THE GOVERNING BODY PRESIDENT'S CONTRITION INADEQUATE AFTER HE SAID THAT GAYS "SHOULD REFRAIN FROM ANY SEXUAL ACTIVITIES" WHILE ATTENDING THE 2022 WORLD CUP IN QATAR.

"Sound familiar? You make the long, exhausting journey to come home to visit your family for Christmas, only to spend the few days you are at home troubleshooting your parents' or in-laws' staggering, malware-infested computers. Google knows your pain, and they've got an answer for you."

— **GEEK.COM** THINK THE COMPANY'S NEW "TEACH PARENTS TECH" SITE WILL BE RATHER SUCCESSFUL.

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puzzles lookout

Horoscope

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) It is time to let someone close to you take the reins; he or she may not perform expertly at the outset but will improve.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You can get the information you need from someone whose experience far exceeds your own, but be willing to ask.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) What was lost is found, and what is most anticipated can become reality at this time; by any standard, this can be a good day.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You may find yourself working closely with someone with whom you never even speak, but the bond is palpable by day's end.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Take care that it's not your reactive, abrasive side that you show off; it's important for you to contribute to the overall calm.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You have only a certain amount of time to accomplish a great deal, so a strong, early start will prove essential.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Don't underestimate the importance of image; how you present yourself — in dress, speech and bearing — is essential.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) You may not want to take on any additional responsibilities, but it may be unavoidable, and someone is eager to pass the torch to you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Once you've completed all the steps you must take, you can't consider the job done — not until you make sure that your work is up to par.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You can answer someone's hospitality with graciousness; any hint of ill-mannered behavior will only hurt you in the end.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) Criticism comes your way after you take action that is not sanctioned by the rule book, but support will be yours in the end.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) It may take you more time than expected to put the pieces of a puzzle together — and it's one you've already solved once in the past.

PostPoints DAILY CODE P Y

Scrabble Grams

PAR SCORE 200-210, BEST SCORE 280

								RACK 1
E1	O1	U1	T1	M3	C3	P3	Triple Word Score	
								RACK 2
A1	A1	R1	D2	N1	S1	B3		
								RACK 3
O1	Y4	H4	S1	G2	T1	L1	3rd Letter Double	
								RACK 4
A1	A1	A1	K5	L1	V4	B3		

Yesterday's Solution

B3	A1	N1	D2	A1	N1	A1	RACK 1 =	60
V4	O1	U1	C3	H4	E1	R1	RACK 2 =	80
B3	E1	W4	A1	R1	E1		RACK 3 =	11
C3	A1	V4	E1	M3	E1	N1	RACK 4 =	66
PAR SCORE 150-160							TOTAL	217

FOUR RACK TOTAL _____

Make a 2-7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get a 50-point bonus. Blank tiles used as any letter have no point value. Scrabble is a trademark of Hasbro in the U.S. and Canada.

Sudoku

MEDIUM

	8			2			6	
7			1		5			8
5			9		8			3
		9				8		
6		8				9		5
		4				6		
4			2		9			6
2			6		7			4
	6			4			1	

Yesterday's Solution

2	7	3	4	8	6	1	9	5
6	1	9	5	2	3	4	7	8
5	4	8	7	1	9	6	2	3
4	2	6	3	9	5	8	1	7
8	9	7	2	6	1	3	5	4
3	5	1	8	7	4	2	6	9
1	8	2	9	3	7	5	4	6
7	3	4	6	5	2	9	8	1
9	6	5	1	4	8	7	3	2

Need more Sudoku? Find another puzzle in the Comics section of The Post every Sunday and in the Style section Monday through Saturday.

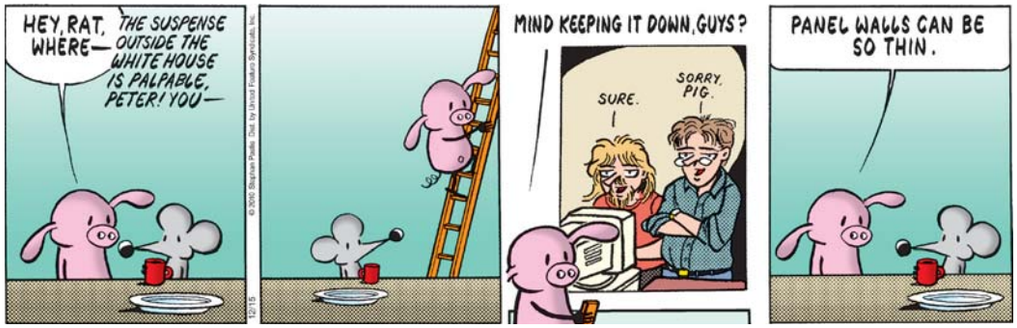
© PUZZLES BY PAPPOCOM

Comics

FIND MORE COMICS AT EXPRESSNIGHTOUT.COM

POOCH CAFE | PAUL GILLIGAN

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE | STEPHAN PASTIS



Forecast

34 | 21

Today: Partly sunny, windy and cold today. Clear, breezy and cold tonight.

37 | 27

Tomorrow: Snow or flurries possible tomorrow. Mostly cloudy tomorrow night.

Looking Ahead

FRI	SAT	SUN
41 | 29	39 | 30	40 | 29

Sun and Moon
Sunrise today: 7:19 a.m.
Sunset today: 4:47 p.m.
Moonrise today: 12:49 p.m.
Moonset today: 1:38 a.m.

Almanac
Normal high: 47
Record high: 70
Normal low: 32
Record low: 6

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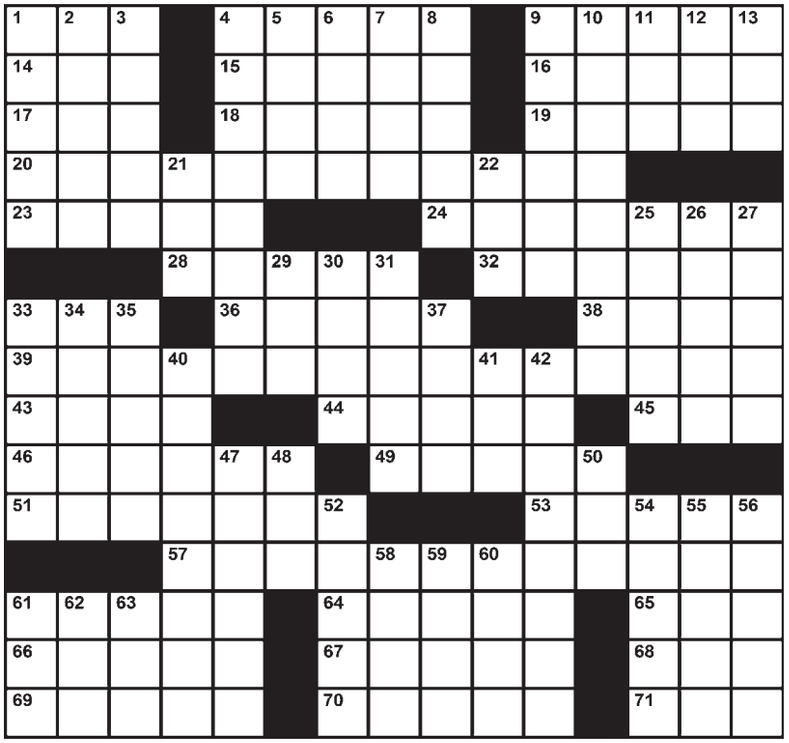
Crossword

DINNER AND A MOVIE



EDITED BY TIMOTHY E. PARKER

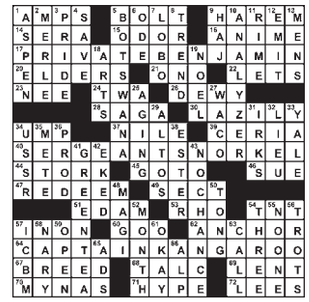
ACROSS

1 A pencil may be parked behind here
4 Watercolorist's pomes
9 Song used in worship
14 Charlotte of "The Facts of Life"
15 Go around the world
16 Archimedean world mover
17 Bobby of hockey
18 Feudal figure
19 Polygon calculations
20 Activity for a foursome
23 Ho-hum feeling
24 Belfry's locale
28 Some lab specimens
32 Comparatively unoriginal
33 Mammal's triplets?
36 Eyed lecherously
38 Pinot ___ (dry red wine)
39 Fading, fashion-wise
43 Discipline with poses
44 Medium for F.D.R.'s speeches
45 Thoroughly blue
46 Like some screams
49 Childhood taboos
51 Sent a message an old-fashioned way
53 Trick alternative
57 Hallucinating
61 Address for a woman
64 Low-lying lands
65 Big Band, for one
66 Ragtime's Eubie
67 Musical melodrama
68 Mal de ___ (sea sickness)
69 Mayflower Compact signer John
70 Minuscule
71 "Permission granted"

DOWN

1 Wear through weathering
2 Wrecker of a Ruth record
3 Encore presentation
4 Future frog
5 "... 15 miles on the ___ Canal"
6 Still under cover
7 Baltic capital
8 "Dele" opposites
9 It goes around annually
10 The Beatles' Pepper, for one
11 "Ciao, Caesar"
12 Jersey milieu
13 Old Miss?
21 "50 Ways to Leave Your Lover" transportation
22 It is in most dialogue?
25 Artful dodges
26 Priestess in Bizet's "The Pearl Fishers"
27 Acted human?
29 "A long, long time ___..."
30 Out-of-focus image
31 ___ example (be a role model)
33 Arab League charter member
34 One of the Bond portrayers
35 Seal or signet
37 Featherbrain
40 Junior, to Senior
41 Shark's appendage
42 Predict
47 Guitar heroes
48 Grant's counterpart
50 ___ Lanka
52 Gouged-out fairway piece
54 Nemesis
55 What verbs and nouns should do
56 Russian leaders before 1917
58 Scruffy location?
59 Jubilant feeling
60 Bird over the waves
61 Many a Wharton grad's degree
62 ___in a day's work
63 Family man

Yesterday's Solution



Today in History

1791 The Bill of Rights goes into effect after ratification by Virginia.

1938 The Jefferson Memorial groundbreaking takes place in Washington, D.C., with President Franklin D. Roosevelt participating in the ceremony.

1939 The motion picture "Gone With the Wind" has its world premiere in Atlanta.

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THANK-YOUS

'I Tolerate This Award To Promote My Movie'

Gwyneth Paltrow has been honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. Faith Hill and Tim McGraw were on hand Monday to help Paltrow show off her star on the sidewalk outside Madame Tussauds. The unveiling comes in advance of the Dec. 22 release in Los Angeles and Nashville of Paltrow's new film, "Country Strong," co-starring McGraw. It opens nationwide on Jan. 7. **(AP)**

Master & Apprentice

Usher Survives Assault by Cuddle

Usher brought a female fan onstage Monday night for a serenade at New York City's Madison Square Garden. He sat her on a couch, but when she tried to get closer to him, her stiletto boot heel hit him in the nose. Usher is unhurt. (AP)

Bieberbot Not Programmed to Harm Humans

Justin Bieber will not be charged in relation to an incident at a laser tag center in October, Usmagazine.com reported. A 12-year-old said Bieber had punched him. "This investigation ... is now complete," said police. (EXPRESS)

STEPHEN LOVEKIN/GETTY IMAGES AND BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

SPLITS

Too Pretty To Last

Scarlett Johansson and Ryan Reynolds are breaking up. "After long and careful consideration ... we've decided to end our marriage," they said in a joint statement. "We entered our relationship with love and it's with love and kindness we leave it. While privacy isn't expected, it's certainly appreciated." The 26-year-old actress and 34-year-old actor were wed in 2008. **(AP)**

MOVES

Giant Metallic Ostrich Relocates to New York

Former first daughter Jenna Bush Hager has moved to New York City, where she'll continue working as a contributing correspondent for NBC's "Today" show. Show spokeswoman Megan Kopf confirmed that the twin daughter of former president George W. Bush had moved to the city. Kopf says the network is "thrilled" Hager will be near headquarters. **(AP)**

"I swear, I eat. I ate a bagel an hour ago. I consume my own weight in hummus every day. I cook a lot, and I even do vegan baking."

—**NATALIE PORTMAN** INSISTS TO VOGUE THAT SHE REALLY DOES LIKE FOOD: "WHEN I'M HUNGRY, I EAT, AND I ALWAYS MAKE SURE I'M EATING SOMETHING DELICIOUS."

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